

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814SFUND RECORDS CTR
2090427

Preliminary Assessment Summary

Vista Metals
13425 Whittam
Fontana, CA 92335Preparer: Mary Osborne
Toxic Substances Control Divison
Southern California SectionHistory and Problem:

Vista Metals has operated an aluminum recycling facility at this site since 1969. Waste materials produced include aluminum dross, cooling tower blowdown sludge, and towmotor steam cleaning wastewater. All dross waste is stored inside a building and is, therefore, not subject to inundation by or runoff due to rainfall. Minor amounts of cooling tower blowdown water are collected in a five feet - six feet deep concrete lined sump at the base of the cooling tower. The major volume of the wastewater runs across the concrete facility yard and drains into a 5,000 gallon holding tank. Prior to 1981, a chromium-zinc based additive was used in cooling tower wastewater treatment. Wastewater analysis indicates that concentrations of these constituents are below Los Angeles County industrial wastewater effluent limitations. Sulfuric acid is the only additive currently used in the treatment process. Tow motor steam cleaning wastewater is discharged to a subsurface disposal system. Because of the subsurface disposal the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) required Vista Metals to analyze the wastewater. No hazardous constituents were detected in concentrations of concern.

The RWQCB has documentation of several disposal/discharge violations for Vista Metals. In October 1977, 1,000 pounds of chlorine fume collector sludge was disposed at the Fontana Class II Sanitary Landfill. The RWQCB required Vista to retrieve the wastes and dispose of them at an appropriate site. Discharge of acidic wastewater to the ground at an estimated rate of 300 gallons/week was discovered in November 1977. It was required that discharge cease immediately and that the acidic liquid be disposed at a Class I facility. There is no documentation of measures taken, if any, to cleanup the contaminated area. An anonymous complaint to the RWQCB in July 1983, indicated that acidic and caustic solutions were being discharged to an unlined pit. This allegation was unsubstantiated in a follow-up inspection. The San Bernardino County Health Department took samples at Vista Metals in May 1984. As yet, the analysis report is not available.

See phone memo 2/29
Mary Masters to Mary Osborne

A recent field check wasn't sufficient to determine if waste materials are adequately contained, or if there are any problems associated with past discharge violations.

Recommendation:

Low priority active status is recommended. It should be determined if any contamination remains on-site from past discharges.

**PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
Region 9**

Preparer's Name Mary Osborne

Date June 1984

	SOURCE	INFORMATION
1. Site ID Number		CAD 008 285033
2. Site Name	Abandoned Site Referral 1/83	Vista Metals
3. Site Location	Abandoned Site Referral 1/83	13425 Whittram Fontana, CA 92335
4. County	Abandoned Site Referral 1/83	San Bernardino
5. Owner (Address & telephone no.)	Abandoned Site Referral 1/83 Phone contact Lester Samstag (714) 823-4278	Vista Metals Corp. 13425 Whittram Fontana, CA 92335
6. Operator (Address & telephone no.)	RWQCB Reports Phone contact Lester Samstag (714) 832-4278 6/27/84	Vista Metals 13245 Whittram Fontana, CA 92335
7. Type of Ownership	Lester Samstag (714) 823-4278 6/27/84	Corporate
8. Status	Drive by 6/13/84	Active
9. Source Activity	RWQCB corresp. S.B. County Ron Ripley	Aluminum alloys - manufacturing, reclamation from scrap. Cooling tower blow down water.
10. Years of Operation	Lester Samstag 6/17/84	1969 - Present
11. Facility Type	S. B. County Ron Ripley (714) 823-3354	Non-generator status Concrete-lined cooling pit Gasoline and diesel tanks
12. Waste Type and Description	RWQCB Inspection Report	Smelting waste (dross), temporary storage, neutralized acid blow down water, caustic water - discharged to Chino Basin Brine line, formerly to holding tanks and ground.

13. Contacts	RWQCB Santa Ana Region (714) 684-9330 Ron Ripley, San Bernardino County Health (714) 383-3354 Larry Miller, Chino Basin Municipal Water District (714) 987-1712 See Agency Contact Record.
14. Incidents	October 6, 1977 - Vista Metals acknowledged that it had illegally disposed of chemical wastes at San Bernardino County's Fontana landfill (II-site). RWQCB required removal of waste from the landfill and that Vista Metals submit a report of how wastes would be ultimately disposed. Fire and Explosion <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Contact <input type="checkbox"/>
15. Inspections (date, type, by whom, recommendations)	6/21/84 - Chino Basin Municipal Water District, routine compliance - no violations. 6/13/84 - Site drive-by: possible short term storage of by-products in open lot. Requires inspection. 7/83 - RWQCB inspection, follow-up to complaint - no violations discovered. 12/22/82 - RWQCB routine compliance inspection. No problems. 12/30/81 - Same as above 3/12/80 - Same as above 11/01/78 - Routine compliance inspection. No problems or violations noted. (see attachment).
16. Enforcement History (list date, type of action, requirements, outcome)	11/25/77 - Confirmed discharge of acid wastes to ground. Ordered to cease immediately (RWQCB). 10/11/77 - Discharge of 1,000 lbs of chemical waste to county landfill. Wastes retrieved and sent to Arizona for processing.
17.a. Initial recommendation for further action:	Low Priority recommended to determine if there is contamination remaining on-site due to past discharges.
17.b. EPA recommendation for further action:	<i>NO Further Action: all hazardous wastes are being disposed of off-site. Possible containment violations unsubstantiated by 6/21/84 C.B.M.W.D. inspection. 11/7/77 discharge incident is low priority and will not be addressed due to lack of resources, many mistakes 3/1/85</i>
18. Response Termination:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Further Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Active Justification: <i>A final disposition for this site cannot be determined until the report from the San Bernardino County Health Department is received.</i> <i>1/1/Kosh 4/5/88</i>

	SOURCE	INFORMATION
19. Observed Release		
20. Depth to Aquifer		
21. Net Precipitation Net seas. rainfall Evaporation		
22. Permeability of Unsaturated Zone		
23. Physical State		
24. Containment (Ground Water)		
25. Toxicity		
26. Persistence		
27. Waste Quantity		
28. Ground Water Use		
29. Distance to Well		
30. Population Served (by Ground Water)		

	SOURCE	INFORMATION
31. Facility Slope		
32. 1 yr. 24 hr. rainfall		
33. Distance to Surface Water		
34. Containment (Surface Water)		
35. Surface Water Use		
36. Distance to Sensi- tive Environment		
37. Population Served (by Surface Water)		
38. Distance to Water Intake		
39. Reactivity		
40. Incompatibility		
41. Toxicity (Air)		
42. Population within 4 mile radius		
43. Land Use		

Vista Metals (Continued)

15. 11/3/77 - RWQCB inspection in response to complaint alleging off-site discharge of acidic waste. Discharge confirmed. RWQCB required Vista Metals to immediately cease discharge and dispose of the liquid at a Class I site.
- 8/11/77 - RWQCB identified sources of waste. Required additional analysis of cooling tower blowdown water and wastewater from steam cleaning operation.